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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Inventors : Charles E. Wickersham, Jr., John E. Poole, Alexander Leybovich, and Lin Zhu  
Serial No. : 10/018,406  
Filed : December 13, 2001  
Title : **Sputter Targets and Methods of Manufacturing Same to Reduce Particulate Emission During Sputtering**  
Docket No. : TSO 190 P2  
**Customer No.: 021367**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A. One copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This information disclosure statement, filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made. Further, the filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b).

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1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

a. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

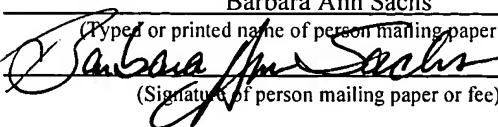
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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b. No item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

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c. Attached is our check no. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 02-2262 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

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a. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).

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b. No item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

Respectfully submitted,  
BIEBEL & FRENCH

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